

**Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned**  
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1(Currently Amended). A piston ring, ~~containing~~ having a base member with a contact surface [(3)] provided with a contact surface profile [(4)] as well as an upper and a lower side surface [(8)], in which at least [the] said contact surface [(3)] is supplied with a vapor deposition coating [(2)], in such a way that a partial area of [the] said contact surface [(3)] is supplied with a removable cover [(6)], so that after fabrication of the vapor deposition coating [(2)] and removal of the cover [(6)] an essentially sharp-edged contact surface edge [(9)] is formed between [the] said contact surface [(3)] and at least one of [the] said side surfaces [(8)].

2(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim 1 wherein [the] said contact surface profile [(4)] includes a ~~is formed by a chambering, where in the area of at least one of the remaining~~ cross member[s] [(5)] [a] on which an associated said removable cover [(6)] is provided.

3(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim 1 wherein [the] said contact surface profile [(4)] includes ~~is formed by means of~~ a partially conical as well as an adjacent cylindrically shaped area, in which said area said ~~in the cylindrical area the~~ removable cover [(6)] is provided.

4(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim 1 wherein [the] said contact surface profile [(4)] includes ~~is formed by means of~~ at least one groove, in which at least ~~one of the~~ cross member[s] [(5)] is provided having said ~~supplied with the~~ removable cover [(6)].

5(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[s] 1 ~~through 4~~ wherein [the] said removable cover [(6)] is formed as a single piece out of the base material.

6(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[s] 1 ~~through 4~~ wherein [the] said removable cover [(6)] comprises ~~is formed by means of~~ bands or strips.

**Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned**  
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

7(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~through 6~~ wherein [[the]] said vapor deposition coating [(2)] comprises ~~is applied through~~ a PVD or CVD coating process in thicknesses between 5  $\mu$ m and 70  $\mu$ m.

8(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~through 7~~ wherein at least one of [[the]] said sides of the ring [(8)] is supplied with a galvanized layer [(12)].

9(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~through 8~~ wherein [[the]] said galvanized layer [(12)] is chrome based.

10(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~through 9 with a~~ wherein said base material ~~of~~ comprises steel or cast iron.

11(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~through 10~~, wherein [[the]] said vapor deposition ~~layer~~ coating comprises [(2)] ~~can be created on the basis of Cr [(and)] or N-based coatings.~~

12(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~through 11~~ wherein [[the]] said contact surface profile [(4)] is supplied with at least one undercut [(11)] defining an oil reservoir ~~so that~~ between [[the]] a cross member [(5)] and [[the]] said vapor deposition coating [(2)] ~~an oil retaining reservoir is formed.~~

13(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~through 12~~ wherein [[the]] said contact surface profile [(4)] includes ~~is built in such a way that~~ a porous transitional area ~~is produced~~ between [[the]] a cross member [(5)] and [[the]] said vapor deposition coating [(2)].

14(Currently Amended). A piston ring, according to claim[[s]] 1 ~~through 13~~ wherein [[the]] said sharp-edged contact surface edge [(9)] is provided between [[the]] said contact surface [(3)] and [[the]] said lower side surface [(8)].

**Appln. No.: Not Yet Assigned**  
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

15(Currently Amended). A method ~~procedure for creation of~~ a vapor deposition coating [(2)] on a contact surface [(3)] of a piston ring [(1)], provided with a contract surface profile [(4)], ~~in which~~ including supplying a base member with a contact surface profile [(4)] ~~is supplied~~ with a cover [(6)] outside of the contact surface profile [(4)]; applying the vapor deposition coating [(2)] ~~is applied~~ on the contact surface [(3)] and subsequently ~~the~~ removing the cover [(6)] is ~~removed~~, so that following the removal of the cover [(6)] an essentially sharp-edged contact surface edge [(9)] is formed between the contact surface [(3)] and at least one of the side surfaces [(8)] of the base member.

16(Currently Amended). A method, according to claim 15 wherein the vapor deposition coating [(2)] is ~~created~~ formed by a PVD or CVD process.

17(Currently Amended). A method, according to claim 15 ~~or 16~~ wherein the base member in the area of at least one of the side surfaces [(8)] is supplied with a galvanized layer [(12)].

18(Currently Amended). A method, according to claim[s] ~~15 through 17~~ wherein the vapor deposition coating [(2)] is created based on Cr and N, in a layer thickness between 5 and 70  $\mu\text{m}$ .

19(Currently Amended). A method, according to claims 15 ~~to 18 wherein the contact surface profile (4) is constructed in such a way that~~ including forming porous transitional areas by the application of the vapor deposition layer (2) ~~porous transitional areas are formed~~.

20(Currently Amended). A method, according to claim[s] 15 including forming ~~to 19 wherein the contact surface profile (4) is constructed in such a way that by the application of the vapor deposition layer (2), under cuts [(11)] for the creation of a oil-retaining reservoirs are formed~~.